



YUKON RIVER NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 14, 2003

Radio Report #4. Broadcast over radio stations KNOM, KICY, KSKO, KCUK and KYUK.
June 14-15, 2003.

This is Steve Hayes with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game with a fisheries report for Yukon River salmon fishermen.

Fish and Game's test set nets observed a pulse of chinook salmon beginning on June 10th and peaked with a set gillnet catch of 238 chinook salmon on June 12th. With the low water, the department still feels the test gillnets may be fishing more efficient than normal.

Pilot Station sonar passage estimates through Friday, June 13th are approximately 63,000 chinook salmon and 26,000 summer chum salmon. The counts at the sonar site have increased as expected, with the observed increase in the lower river test fishing gillnets on June 10th and 11th.

The run assessment at this time is expected to provide for escapements and subsistence needs throughout the drainage. The 2003 chinook salmon run to date, is similar to 2001 and 2002. In both 2001 and 2002, a small commercially harvestable surplus was available.

The subsistence salmon fishing schedule is the same for both the state and federal managed waters. The subsistence salmon fishing schedules for Districts 1, 2 and 3 are now in effect and consists of two 36-hour fishing periods each week.

Subsistence salmon fishing in District 1 is allowed from 8:00 PM Monday until 8:00 AM Wednesday and from 8:00 PM Thursday until 8:00 AM Saturday.

Subsistence salmon fishing in Districts 2 and 3 is allowed from 8:00 PM Wednesday until 8:00 AM Friday and from 8:00 PM Sunday until 8:00 AM Tuesday.

Subsistence salmon fishing for the Coastal District is open 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.

All subsistence fishing for salmon must be stopped during subsistence salmon fishing closures. Subsistence fishing for non-salmon species, such as whitefish, sheefish, and pike, is open 7 days per week throughout the drainage. Gillnets used for harvesting non-salmon species during salmon fishing closures in Districts 1, 2, and 3 are restricted to a maximum length of 60 feet and 4-inches or smaller mesh.

Subsistence fishermen are reminded that your name and address must be written on a buoy attached to gillnets and other unattended subsistence fishing gear.

For recorded fishery announcements and updates call 949-1731, 24 hours a day. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Emmonak state Fish and Game office at 949-1320 or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office at 949-1798. The Emmonak Fish and Game office will stand by on VHF channel 7A.

This has been a report by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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